

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 1 — Titus 2:11-14; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Corinthians 3:18 — April 19, 2020

Special Note:

During this remarkable time, we encourage your D-Groups to gather virtually and stay connected even though you can't meet in person. Your meetings will probably be shorter and there may be some awkward technology moments. It's OK – push through! Because meeting will feel different, we are reducing the number of questions each week. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions in each section. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose the ones from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We have prayed for you as you lead your D-Group today!

Begin your time by asking these questions:

- How are you processing everything that is happening right now?
- What have you and your family done differently during this time?
- How can our group pray for you during this unique time?

Consider beginning with prayer. This way people aren't feeling the urge to pray just to get off the meeting. Here is a simple prayer guide to consider:

- [Coronavirus Prayer Guide](#)



KNOW:

- Talk about a time you dedicated yourself to training for something that you wanted to accomplish (e.g., race/marathon, sporting event, recital, certification, etc.). How did you motivate yourself to train? Why was training important to accomplish the outcome you desired? Did you make sacrifices? What was the result?



KNOW (Cont'd):

- Have you ever intentionally developed a habit? Good or bad, how did that habit impact or change your life?
- When you think of the relationships that you cherish the most in your life, what are some of the habits or practices that you find yourself doing that further and deepen those relationships?



GROW:

- Read through a few of these verses that speak to spiritual practice (Titus 2:11-14; 1 Timothy 4:7-8 and 2 Corinthians 3:18). Which of these verses stands out to you? Why?
- The more you behold Christ, the more you become like Christ. What does it mean to “behold” Christ? How has this been true in your life over the past month? Practically speaking, how can we behold Christ during this season?
- Does godliness just happen to us after we cross the line of faith or do we play a part in growing in godliness? List the things we are ask to renounce in Titus 2:12 and then to embrace. How does God’s grace impact our efforts to grow in Godliness?
- Titus 2:12 and 1 Timothy 4:7 speak of God's grace training us" to live the life that Christ wants and has for us. How, through a grace-driven effort, can we allow Christ to train us for a godly life in the culture and world we live in? What are some of the benefits of living a Godly life (e.g., peace, joy, others, etc.)?



SHOW:

- What about our discussion makes you excited to learn more about spiritual practices? What spiritual practice would you like to learn more about over the next few weeks? What is one step you can take this week to personally spend time with the Lord? How can your D-Group encourage you as you take this step?
- In this time of great interruption of our plans and schedules, have you found it easier or more difficult to maintain spiritual practices? What would it look like for you or your family to establish some new spiritual habits that enhance the spiritual disciplines in your life (e.g., prayer times, bible-reading, etc.)?
- What habits in your spiritual life transform you more into the image of Christ? How can you do more of that this week? What habits in your life make you less like Christ? What does doing less of that this week look like?

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 2 —Meditation & Memorization of Scripture— April 26, 2020

Special Note Updated:

As we continue this unusual time of social distancing, please know that we are so thankful for you and your faithfulness in connecting together while not gathering. We miss seeing you and we are looking forward to meeting in person again as D-Groups and as a church in the future. We pray that your online D-Group meetings and other creative ways of staying connected continues to be an encouragement to you. Thank you for the ways in which you are serving and loving each other well in the midst of this unique time! Have a great discussion and know that we are continuing to pray for you!

A great way to begin your group time is by asking a question like:

- As you have practiced social-distancing what have been some new or reestablished rhythms of life that have emerged that you would like to see continue once social-distancing requirements are eased?
- Consider things that have been temporarily removed or added to your daily routine during this unusual time. Talk about what impact making some or all of those changes permanent would have.
- How has God been speaking or working in your life during this unique time?

More resources that are both relevant to today's situation

- Check out [Fellowship's RightNow Media library and recommendations](#) where you will find studies including *Overcoming Anxiety During COVID-19*, *Enjoying Jesus*, *Psalm 23*, and *The Art of Neighboring*. These studies and many others can be viewed by you and/or others in your group to bring peace and meaning during this time. [Click HERE](#) if you or someone in your group needs a RightNow Media account.



KNOW:

- Finish the lyrics to these famous songs:
 - In west Philadelphia, born and raised.....
 - I got my first real six string.....
 - Sometimes you wanna go.....
 - Blame it all on my roots.....
 - A little ditty, about.....

What makes these songs so memorable?

- Share with the group about something that you got stuck in your head and had a hard time getting out. What is something that you memorized earlier in your life that has always stuck with you?
- Do you think that the habit of scripture memory has been affected by a world that has instant access to the Bible and the ability to Google anything? If so, how?



GROW:

- What would you say is the purpose of memorizing and meditating on Scripture?
- Ask three different people to read aloud (one verse per person), Joshua 1:8, Psalms 1:1-3, and 119:9-11. According to these verses what are the benefits of meditating and storing scripture in your heart?
- John 15:7 says, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." What does it mean to let the words of Jesus "abide" in us?
- Practically speaking, what are some methods you have used to memorize scripture or keep it at the forefront of your mind? Share with the group.



SHOW:

- Ask God to increase your desire to know His Word and to understand and appreciate the value of it. Do you need to spend some time confessing to God your lack of effort in hiding His Word in your heart?
- What are some negative feelings emotions or thoughts you are battling right now? Share those with your group and help each other find one or two scriptures that you could memorize on your own or as a group this week to focus your mind on the truth of God's Word. (Suggestions: Ps. 91:14-16, Ps. 121)
- Many have found it helpful when desiring to memorize God's word to have a scripture memory partner who can encourage you. Who could help encourage and celebrate progress as you hide God's word in your heart? Is there a verse your D-Group could work on together this week?

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 3 – Example of Scripture — May 3, 2020

Special Note Updated:

As we continue this unusual time of social distancing, please know that we are so thankful for you and your faithfulness in connecting together while not gathering. We miss seeing you and we are looking forward to meeting in person again as D-Groups and as a church in the future. We pray that your online D-Group meetings and other creative ways of staying connected continues to be an encouragement to you. Thank you for the ways in which you are serving and loving each other well in the midst of this unique time! Have a great discussion and know that we are continuing to pray for you!

A great way to begin your group time is by asking a question like:

- As you have practiced social-distancing what have been some new or reestablished rhythms of life that have emerged that you would like to see continue once social-distancing requirements are eased?
- Consider things that have been temporarily removed or added to your daily routine during this unusual time. Talk about what impact making some or all of those changes permanent would have.
- How has God been speaking or working in your life during this unique time?

More resources that are both relevant to today's situation

- Check out [Fellowship's RightNow Media library and recommendations](#) where you will find studies including *Overcoming Anxiety During COVID-19*, *Enjoying Jesus*, *Psalm 23*, and *The Art of Neighboring*. These studies and many others can be viewed by you and/or others in your group to bring peace and meaning during this time. [Click HERE](#) if you or someone in your group needs a RightNow Media account.



KNOW:

- What is the song that most gets stuck in your head after hearing just one or two lines (e.g. Baby Shark)? You're welcome for that. If you're just itching for something more, search "It's Raining Tacos" by Parry Gripp.

- It is inevitable. The moment you decide to start a diet, your spouse makes an incredible masterpiece for dessert, or your friends invite you out for appetizers. As soon as you have been entrusted with confidential information, it just wants to come bursting out of you. Have you ever been faced with an incredible temptation, but denied and survived? What did that tension feel like?
- Parents are great for one liner pieces of wisdom. “Money doesn’t grow on trees”, “This hurts me more than it hurts you”, or how about this, “Because I said so.” Share a phrase or piece of advice that you remember your parents telling you during childhood. Why has this specific wording stuck with you over the years?



GROW:

- Read through the passage of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11 or Luke 4:1-13). Try having one person read it in a version that you don’t normally read but flows well (NIV, NLT, CSB). Then have someone else read it out loud to the group in a different version. Have the rest of the group concentrate on listening to the reading. What stuck out to you during the reading?
- Psalm 119:11 says “I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Have you found this to be true in your life? Resisting temptation and sin is only one thing that keeping the Word of God close does, what are some others?
- Matthew records “The Temptation of Jesus” directly after “The Baptism of Jesus,” which many see as His public declaration of ministry. Do you think this translates to our world? Is it possible Satan tempts Christians the most right after a moment or season of spiritual growth? If yes, why could that be?
- Jesus and Satan both used Scripture. What is the difference in the way Jesus used Scripture and the way Satan used Scripture? What were the different implications from the way they used Scripture?



SHOW:

- Contemplate something that is overwhelming you in this season. Share it with the group, and together look up some scriptures that combat or help with those things. Pick one to memorize.
- This quarantine has a way of exposing our practice of discipline. Have you discovered any natural disciplines that you have turned to? Are there any disciplines that you have started that you hope to take with you out of quarantine?
- There is no shortage of ways that you can listen to, read, or memorize the Bible. Pick one and try it out this week.

Listen	Read	Memorize
Dwell Bible App	Pull the book off your shelf and read	Write verse on an index card
Have someone read out loud to you	YouVersion Bible App	Verses App
Streetlights Bible (a hip-hop flavor)	Read Scripture Bible App	Fighter Verse

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 4 – Prayer – May 10, 2020

NO GOING BACK: Keeping the Rhythms of Faith and Family – Session 1

As we continue this unusual time of social distancing, we also know that the day will be coming when things will go back to “normal”. The Adult Discipleship team from across the campuses has created a 3-part video series to help you and your D-Group have a conversation around identifying and continuing some of the beneficial practices that you have developed during quarantine around faith and family. This series will be delivered to you one part at a time at the beginning of your weekly sermon curriculum over the next three weeks. Please share this video with your group before your D-Group meeting. Begin your meeting discussing some of the thoughts in the video series before moving into the Know, Grow, and Show sections. We are praying for you this week!

“No Going Back” Questions for your D-Group:

- 1) Our “baskets” of life have been emptied out for the past few weeks. What has God been putting on your heart to leave out of your “basket” when this is finished?
- 2) What changes have you seen in your relationships? In your home? With your friends? What do you hope lasts out of those relationships from the past few weeks?



KNOW:

- What is your experience with prayer? What is your earliest memory of praying? How did you learn to pray? How has your prayer life changed over the years? Can you think of someone in your life who has modeled a strong prayer life? Tell your group about that person and the impact they have had on you.
- How does your communication differ between relationships with an acquaintance and with a close friend in those relationships? Compare and contrast the kinds of things you talk about and share with those different people.
- Have you ever been drawn into a really good conversation? What was it about that conversation that kept you engaged? Prayer is a conversation we have with God. When you pray, do you feel like you’re having a conversation with God?



GROW:

- Jesus uses the Lord's Prayer when teaching his disciples how to pray. Read Luke 11:2-4. What stands out to you about the way Jesus prays? What can we learn from this prayer?
- We believe that God is sovereign, meaning, He is in control of all things at all times. Why does God call us to pray to Him about specific people and circumstances? Discuss how these truths interact with prayer.
- God always responds to our prayers in His own timing and will. Are there any times in your life that you saw God answer a prayer directly? Are there any times that you have prayed for things with all your heart and for long periods of time and haven't gotten the answer that you wanted? How did that affect you?
- What are some things that you think are obstacles in your prayer life (time, intention, not knowing what to say, etc.)?



SHOW:

- Often times, in church circles we tell each other that we will be praying for one another. We often forget that we can pray anytime and anywhere! Who are 3 people that you can pray with this week? Come prepared next week to share some of your prayer stories!
- It could be said that the health and depth of your prayer life is a good measure of your dependence on God. If we feel like we are self-sufficient then there isn't a need for us to seek an all-powerful God through prayer. Using your prayer life as your gauge, how much would you say you rely on yourself vs. God? What is one step you might take to see that change?
- Take some time and pray using The Lord's Prayer as a guide:
 - "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
 - The word "hallowed" means "honored as holy." Start out by praising God for who He is.
 - "Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
 - Pray God's will be done over our own desires. A good way to start is: "God, your will be done in _____."
 - "Give us this day our daily bread."
 - Ask God for specific needs in your life or that of your community.
 - "and forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors."
 - Spend a few minutes asking God for forgiveness for specific areas in your life.
 - "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."
 - Spend a few minutes praying again

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 5 – Example of Prayer – May 17, 2020

[NO GOING BACK: Keeping the Rhythms of Faith and Family – Session 2](#)

As we continue this unusual time of social distancing, we also know that the day will be coming when things will go back to “normal”. The Adult Discipleship team from across the campuses has created a 3-part video series to help you and your D-Group have a conversation around identifying and continuing some of the beneficial practices that you have developed during quarantine around faith and family. This series will be delivered to you one part at a time at the beginning of your weekly sermon curriculum over the next three weeks. Please share this video with your group before your D-Group meeting. Begin your meeting discussing some of the thoughts in the video series before moving into the Know, Grow, and Show sections. We are praying for you this week!

Ways to watch:

- Watch on RightNow Media – [NO GOING BACK: Session 2](#)
- Watch on YouTube – [NO GOING BACK: Session 2](#)

“No Going Back” Questions for your D-Group:

- 1) What do you need to cut out or modify to make church a priority?
- 2) What do you miss about our church?



KNOW:

- Share a specific time in your life when you were facing something really difficult? What was it? How did you get through it?



KNOW (CONT'D):

- At times, people have been known to bargain with God, making a feeble attempt to make sure we have his attention. Have you ever tried to make a bargain with God (God if you do this, then I will...)? Was it a serious situation or something silly?
- Do you feel like it is easier for you to pray when your mood is great or when you are feeling down? What do you think makes the difference? What scripture verses have you prayed, or known others to have prayed, that helped in times like this?



GROW:

- Take a minute to read through Psalm 61 as a group. Take note of all the times David uses refers to himself. What do you think this says about David's relationship to God?
- Are there any verses in Psalm 61 that stand out to you? Circle or highlight it in your Bible and share with your D-Group. What about it caught your attention?
- What do you notice about trust and dependence on God in this passage? Think back to last week's model of prayer (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield). What does David's prayer in this chapter model for you? What does trust or dependence on God, like that of David in the psalm, have to do with prayer?
- A difficult subject that we often navigate is finding God's will. How do we find the balance between praying in faith and leaving a situation open to God's will? What other passages in Scripture reflect this?



SHOW:

- David shows us a beautiful way to pray in the midst of trauma and suffering – pray vulnerably, pray confidently, pray hopefully. Which of these do you most relate to? Which do you least relate to?
- Blaise Pascal once said, "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone." Stepping away from noise and distraction can be very hard. What impact do you think finding quiet moments to be with God could make on your prayer life? What step might you take this next week to find a quiet place/time to talk with God?
- As a group, come up with a short goal of prayer to work on this week. Example: each person prays 10 minutes at some point during the day or everyone gets a partner and prays during the week together or about a shared topic.

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 6 – Fasting – May 24, 2020

[NO GOING BACK: Keeping the Rhythms of Faith and Family – Session 3](#)

As we continue this unusual time of social distancing, we also know that the day will be coming when things will go back to “normal”. The Adult Discipleship team from across the campuses has created a 3-part video series to help you and your D-Group have a conversation around identifying and continuing some of the beneficial practices that you have developed during quarantine around faith and family. This series will be delivered to you one part at a time at the beginning of your weekly sermon curriculum over the next three weeks. Please share this video with your group before your D-Group meeting. Begin your meeting discussing some of the thoughts in the video series before moving into the Know, Grow, and Show sections. We are praying for you this week!

Ways to watch:

- RightNow Media – [NO GOING BACK: Session 3](#)
- YouTube – [NO GOING BACK: Session 3](#)

“No Going Back” Questions for your D-Group:

- 1) In what ways have you been able to serve during this time?
What new ways do you feel God is opening the door for you to serve?
- 2) Where do you see God stirring you when it comes to thinking about, praying for, and going to the nations?



KNOW:

- What is something you desired so much that you sacrificed greatly to accomplish it? When you attained it, was the effort worth the sacrifice? How did you benefit from it?
- What is a spiritual attribute/quality you admire in others that you would like to have yourself? Why is it so attractive to you? How would you go about attaining it?



KNOW (CONT'D):

- Have you participated in some form of fasting in the past? What was it like? What did you learn? What makes going without food or another desire so difficult? What does that difficulty say about the power of the flesh in our lives?



GROW:

- Matthew 6:16 starts by saying, “when you fast”. What does that phrase communicate to us? Given fasting is expected of us as Christ-followers, why is it often the last or one of the last spiritual disciplines we embrace and practice regularly?
- Some use fasting today to lose weight or detox the body, but what does scripture teach is the goal of fasting? What does Matthew 6:16-18 say about our physical appearance and public proclamation as we are fasting? Why are these reminders important?
- God longs to be involved in our lives, to walk with us, and to bless us. Choose two of the following passages where people fasted and invited God into issues they were facing. (Matt.4:1-17; Acts13:1-3; Neh.1:1-4; Ezra 8:21-23; Jonah 3:5,10; Luke 2:36-38) Why did they pursue Him? How did God respond? What is an issue you might want to fast for this month?
- In prayer we seek God, but in fasting we passionately pursue Him. Andrew Murry, a great prayer warrior, made this confession about his need to fast. *“I was led into a state of great dissatisfaction with my own want of faith and love for God and others. I often felt weak in the presence of temptation. But fasting helped me express and deepen my readiness to sacrifice anything to attain what my heart longs for – the presence of God and His kingdom.”* What do you think led him to fast? What did he hunger for in his life? What words would you use to describe your hunger for God?



SHOW:

- Fasting is meant to draw us closer to the Lord and open our eyes to the things He is concerned about in our world. Pastor Warren Wiersbe says, “*True fasting will lead to humility before God, and ministry to others, to the glory of God*”. As you read Is.58:6-14, how should fasting affect our relationship with others and our commitment to social justice? Where do you see our church reflecting the heart of God? What would you like to ask God to do through you in our community?
- Bill Bright, the founder of CRU, was a catalyst for spiritual change around the world. As he fasted, he found it not only restored intimacy in his relationship with the Lord, created greater humility in his life, and freed the Holy Spirit to reveal areas needing change, but it also made him a channel of revival to those around him. What would you like to see God do in your life? In whose lives would you like to be used to foster revival?
- In our series on Beholding and Becoming we have not only gained understanding of spiritual disciplines, but we have also practiced them. What could it look like this week for our whole group to begin the spiritual discipline of fasting from food, social media, or some other desire or delight together?

BEHOLDING BECOMING

Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 7 – May 31, 2020

Special Note:

During this remarkable time, we encourage your D-Groups to gather virtually and stay connected even though you can't meet in person. Your meetings will probably be shorter and there may be some awkward technology moments. It's OK – push through! Because meeting will feel different, we are reducing the number of questions each week. As always, don't feel like you must use all of the questions in each section. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose the ones from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. We have prayed for you as you lead your D-Group today!

Catch up on NO GOING BACK:

- Session 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0EjXIsGRGI>
- Session 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QydLIXM6Spk&t=3s>
- Session 3 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yx_rZMirbc



KNOW:

- What is something you love so much that you can't live without it? Why is this special to you?
- Psalm 27 was written by David during a trying time in his life. He was in trouble. The focus of the psalm is on hope.
 - Fill in the blank about something FUN/FUNNY/CASUAL going on in your life.
 - I hope _____. (example....the hogs win a national championship!)
 - Fill in the blank about something MORE SERIOUS going on in your life.
 - I hope _____. (example.....we're finally able to get pregnant)



KNOW (CONT'D):

- What are the greatest sources of fear in your life? What is your normal pattern for responding to these fears?



GROW:

- As individuals, read Psalm 27 slowly and thoughtfully. As you read and reread, mark any words or phrases that are meaningful to you, and put a question mark by anything that you don't understand. As a group, discuss the words and phrases that stood out to each of you.
- What challenges have you faced in your life because of COVID-19? How have you seen God work through others to minister to you during this time?
- Read Psalm 19:7-11. How does the author regard the Word of God? What resonates with you? Are there any other Psalms that you lean on during times of struggle?
- David ends Psalm 27 with a confident declaration of belief. This belief in the Lord's "goodness" caused David to patiently wait for the Lord even when times were difficult. How has the Lord's goodness helped you to patiently wait for the Lord in similar situations?



SHOW:

- During this series we have talked about practices that help put us in the pathway of God. We have also talked about things that keep us from communion with God. Are there things in your life that take up so much of your time and energy that cutting it out for periods of time could provide you valuable time spent with God?
- If the Lord would answer one prayer of yours quickly, what would it be? Pray for these desires with one another.
- Worship is a weapon. Close your time by listening to a worship song that expresses hope and trust in the Lord over the fears and doubts of your circumstances. Feel free to pick your own song, but here are some ideas if you need one. Send these links to your group members during the week as a source of reminders of truth and encouragement.
 - This We Know - Vertical Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq233lM3k9w>
 - My Confidence - Iron Bell Music - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rvCcPeChv4>
 - Yes I Will - Vertical Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssozypj0fnM>
 - Build My Life - Pat Barrett - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE